Joe Plummer

Writing 105

Beholding

The article “Beholding” by Rosemarie Garland-Thomson speaks about how through good staring there should be an interaction between starer and staree and an opportunity for understanding and growth. Rosemarie begins by illustrating the innate desire people have to stare at tragedies such as car accidents or people missing limbs. She goes on to explain that this staring can be effective as long as we get past the “thank God that is not me” mentality, and really strive to understand the situation the person might be in. Rosemarie uses Ms. Johnson, a childhood pneumonia survivor and disabled person, as an example of an opportunity for good staring. Johnson displays that even though most people’s initial reaction to her life is that she is living an incomplete and empty life it is possible to live her life with purpose and meaning. Ms. Johnson showed her story to the world through the *New York Times*, and hopes that by making the statement that she is living a meaningful life people may begin to look, or “stare”, at people in a similar situation with a different point of view. Rosemarie Garland-Thomson sees every stare as an opportunity to discover behold a new beauty. The staree is given the opportunity to show the starer a new point of view or way of thinking, and “beholding” should inspire mutual growth.